

The Discouerie of THE KNIGHTS OF THE

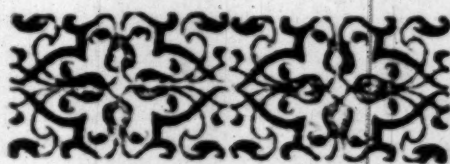
(16)

Poste : Or the Knightes of the post, or cō-
mon common baylers newly Discried.

Wherein is shewed and plainely laide open,
many lewde actions, and subtile deuises, which are daily pra-
ctised by them; to the great abuse of most honorable Coun-
celers, learned Iudges, and other graue Maiestrates;
And also to the defrauding and vtter vndoing
of a greate number of her Maiestties
good and loyall subiects.

(.:.)

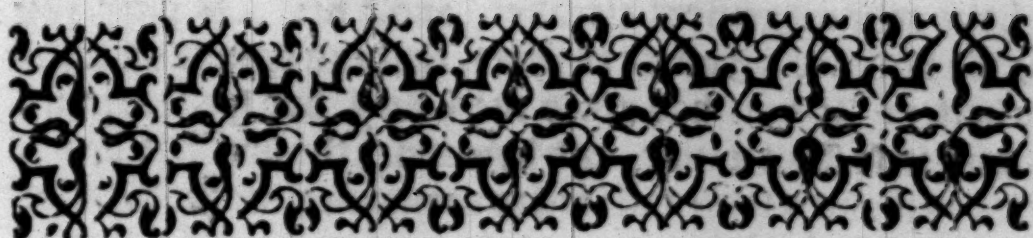
By E. S.



AT LONDON

Printed by G. S. and are to be solde neere
the Golden Lyon in the olde Bayly,

1597.



THE DISCOVERY OF THE Knights of the Poste.



A I traueiled towarde Plimmoth, this last voyage, vpon my well approued hacney, (ould Bayard of ten tocs) it was my good lucke a little on this side Hounslowe, (iust vpon the heath, wwere that villaine was hanged in chaines, that murdered the maiden in the wood) to ouertake a wel trust fellow mounted vpon as proper an nagge as my own, but not altogether so well paced: At what time I had him good morrow, good morrow (quoth he:) God graunt it proue so, but as I specke, so will I praise the day: why sir (said I) then well ouertaken, I trust my græting deserves nee grudge. In deede (quoth he) well ouertaken but ill found. I musing at the man what he meant by these quibs, asked him how so: Becanse (said he) my purse is as empty as my belly, and yet my stomacke as good as yours. I tolde him that matter would be some amended, if he wanted pence, to leaue a pawne for his breakfast: The man hearing me say so: answered, my counsaile was better then my charity, and yet (quoth he) your charity may be better then my pawne: for I assure you, I suppose you haue more to giue, then I haue to gage: and yet yesterday, I had as much money as would fill a quart pottle, if my wisdom had bene so good to keepe it: Certainly (said I) he that would spend so prodigally, and so much in one day, without any regard, in my opinion is worthy to fast the next day without pittie: So sir,

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I haue your iudgement already (quoth he:) it is pittie you should be made a Justice of peace, that can examine a cause no better: If you had asked me how I had spent so much money in so short a time, and how much the sum had bene, you had shewen some wit: but to pronounce me prodigall at the first dash, for so trifling a cause, argues in deede a man of small discretion. Why qud. he, is not he to be blame, & counted a thristle waster, that spends the quantity of a quart of money in one day: if you had gamde it away, it had bene an other matter, because I know it a thing sone done, and you not so much to be blamed: for that a man cannot commaund the dice as he may his dogge, to say, sir fetch me the same againe: Alasse qud. he, how simple of vnderstanding are you, iust as wise as Winefred my wife, that when I wisht her to arme her selfe against her vnquiet neighbours, presently clapt a cosset on her backe, and so ran among them: You come in with a quart full of money, and I toulde you of as much money as filde a quart, which God wot was but one penny for the which I had a quart of ale at Colbrooke.

Was it so, I crie you mercy qud. I, and because I haue made you this offence, I will paye for your breakefast at Staines, which now is not farre off: and I pray you let me request to knowe how farre you trauell this way: Mary sir qud. he, euen as farre as I would with your company, finding you alwaies thus kinde: but indeede my iourney is to Plimmoth, if I knew how to get thither, with that we went into our Inn at the signe of the Ale, stake, where I calde in for bread and chace, & þ best beere they had in the house: This is well done (qud. he) call you in for that which is good, and I will haue a care it shall not be lost: and with that he claps a penny loafe in his pocket, and anone after he thrust another into his bosome: I demaunding why he did so: he answered, because (saith he) I would trie whether þ bread at the next towne be as good as this or no: For me thinkes it hath a very good relish, & I assure you it is good for a man to be experienced in such things, and still be fed vpon bread
and

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And cheefe as nimble as a squerell on a nutte. I seeing him feede so hartely, said if his legs were as good as his stomache he needed not to feare his Journey to Plimmoth: so at length being well refresh't, I told him that according to my promise I would pay for his breakfast, but he should pay for the two penny loaves in his pocket: By the masse (quoth he) I am perswaded your purse is better linde then mine, notwithstanding if my credit be better then yours, wth this my wel-
laste hoastice, I am content to passe my wo:rd for it: ether.
wise you are like to pay all for me.

The woman hearing him stout at her face, was straight inflamed as if she had bene made of tuchwood, and wholly compact of a lump of gunpowder: Why thou paultry knave (qd she) what ailes my face? what canst thou say to my face? or what dost thou see in my face? For soule my face, I hope my face is a christian bodys face, thou scurvy iacke, I tell thee I am not ashamed to shew my face. I thinke so (qd he) for it is of as good scarlet dye, as ever I saw any in my daies: but say, will you take my wo:rd for two pence? Take thy wo:rd: He sae thee hangd first (qd she) pay me my money, or by Gods body He haue you set by the heeles: and with that she toke vp her distaffe and beate him out of doores: where I seeing was glad to content her, and so we parted from y^e place. I would (quoth he) every hoastice would giue me such a passport as my hoastice of Staines: then would I not doubt but to come to my iourneies end, with victuals inoughe in my paunche, and no hurt to my person.

Thus we went on our way, hauing worke sufficient to coment on this controuersie, even till we came to Balingstoke, where with the suns setting we toke vp our lodging, and with the beginning of the euening ended our daies task. Now (qd my mery companion) to requite your curtesie for my dinner, find you meate and drinke, and I will find bread to supper. And so if I finde to morrow as happy as this day hath bene to me, I shalbe well pleased to heare you againe to salute me with good morrow: other wise the day shal hane
my

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my fauour to my fortune. And with that as mery as a man with two penny loaves in his pocket, he steps into a tipling house and askt for lodging, he was no sooner come into the house, but there was one clad like a Cavalier of Spaine, that tooke acquaintance of him, saying: What Goodcoll my old friend, my companion and familiar acquaintance, wel met, I am glad to see thee in health: he Tapster fill vs a dosen of beere, for wee be mery ysaith: with that my companion was wonderous iocund, and gratifying him with all the reuerence he could deuise, with Italian and French imbracements, sometimes about the middle, sometimes below the knees: he requited his greeting in this sort: Lacke Freeman, A plague on thee, who would haue thought to haue found thee here: trust me by the faith of an honest man, I am glad of this chance: And in respect of this happy meeting, I blesse my fortunate starres that it was my lucke to see thee befoze I die: And as thou louest me, bid this my friend welcome and let vs suppe together: but Lacke Freeman except your purse be better then mine, our chere will but mocke our stomackes, which at this time I should take in as ill part, as my hostice of Staines did my words this morning. Tush feare not (qd. Freeman) if thou hast no money, I haue enough both for me and thee, and ysaith thou shalt not lacke as long as forty pounds last: why man I thanke God I haue in this simple doublet (as I may say to thee) an hundred angels and upward, and hang dogs. Goodcoll they shall be all at thy command. Godamercy my swete Lacke Freeman (qd. he:) And with that we all sate downe to supper: At what time they fell into great communication & one with the other. Freeman declared how he was newly come out of Ireland, and what hurt the rebels had don there, by setting diuers townes on fire, and now (qd. he) I am come from visiting my friends in Hampshire, with purpose to go directly to London. Therfore I pray thee tell me how doth all our good friends there, and what is the best newes. In troth (qd. Goodcoll) no newes but what is common: The
god

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god Earle of Essex is prepared to sea, and in sooth thither am
I going to: for what with my debts, and my wiues tongue
(before god) I am constrained to leaue all, for who would
line in dzead of those creepe corners, that gets their living by
playing boe-peepe, who like the cockcow haue neuer but one
song, and that sounds so ill fauouredly, saying: I arest you:
that I promise you it makes many a mans heart ake that
heares it. And whither I pray you trauels this honest man
your friend (qd. he:) Truly (said I) my iourney is toward y
sea too, though not for the like cause as my friend goes. For
as for my wife, her tongue did neuer displease me, because
she could neuer speake being bozne dumb, and as for Serge-
ants, I neuer neede to feare them, for no man would euer
credite me to make me run in debt. Then hast thou (qd. Free-
man) two good commodities. But hearest thou Goodcoll, I
pray thee say: how doe all our ancient acquaintance, y good
oath-takers, or common baylers: Alias the Knights of the
Poste, the Lords of lobs pound, and heires apparant to the
pillory: who are as ready to baile men out of prison, being
then well pleased for their paines, as Tiron is in playing
the traitour without causes. Tush (quoth Goodcoll) that
fraternity of falsehood, and fellowship of fraud, doth neuer
lightly passe out of the old byas, they are all in health, though
boide of honesty: some are at liberty to seke a dinner where
they can get it: and some to spare shoe-leather lies in prison.
L. that old lad is soorth coming, though not coming soorth,
hauing the priuiledge to walke his stations in one of y coun-
ters in London, & so are diuers other of the same profession.
But tell me I pray you (qd. Freeman) what is become of B.
is he as sound mettle as he was: And how doth the harbor
of new-corne, olde father C to-corne, L. the Courier, and
he whom men call worse then Craft, are they all living still?
Living (qd. Goodcoll) trust me I, and like enough to liue
till shame either prefers them to the pillory, or misery ende
their daies. B. hath sounded false larums in Westminster hall
a long time, and hath been a graund Knight of antiquity: as

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well knowne for his profession, as mother Bunches ale to nipitaty. But for the store houses of coine, he hath betaken himselfe to his beades: for in matters of bailing, he is like an old horse, whose marke is nere woene out of his mouth: but notwithstanding though he be feeble in body, yet his minde is as good as euer it was, & that which he cannot performe himselfe, he procures others to doe: like that aunciente raine beaten harlot M, R, that after shee had quite consumed her young yeres in lechery, and was no more set by, yet for the lone she bore to the whozish art, procured and inticed younger ones to doe it, and so became a notable bande. And in like sort playeth he, for where he bayleth one himselfe, he procureth others to baile th:ce.

But as concerning olde father C: why man hee is outde surety, as trustie as Steele, and one that alwaies helpes at a dead lift: for after he hath smugd vpppe himselfe in his borrowed apparell, with his great scale ring on his finger of pure copper and guilt, when he comes to baile a man before a Iudge, being demaunded if hee be a subsidie man or no, straight answers, and it shall please your good Lordshippe, I haue bene a subsidie man this xx. winters and vppward: And then he sweares, that he was seized at v. pounds in the Quenees booke the last sessment of the subsidie: and further affirmes it on his credit, which is as good in cheapeside, as it is at the puddingpy house, where they will not trust him for two pence: but he hath one bad quality, which I doubt will make him at length lose his customers, and that is this. He wil neuer be pleased when he hath bailed one, except he giue him more then his promise and beside stop his mouth with a pint of old sack. Now sir he whom men call worse then craft and L. I thinke they will giue ouer their trade of bailing, & turne truemen, for they doe not so much vse it as they haue done heretofore. Trust me (qd. Freeman) that would be as great a miracle, as to see Bankes his curtaile dance a hoene pipe. But what say you to little T, and to him that is called more then a whole bare ow, and the man whose name hath but six letters, six th:ce bowels, then two consonants?

But

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But (qd Good'col) they be in these matters like **Spanering** at a buriall, of no reckoning, except to iest at: being rather procurers of others then doers themselves. If you make no account of them (qd Freeman) what say you then of him that boze the name of the olde player with the velvet cap: of the aged Crane turnde backewarde, K, with the tun, & F. wth the fire face, C. the true rook olde y^e sold away his wife for money, & after wardes receiued her home againe: mary qd. G. as Tarleton saide of the Tinker, that they haue moze craft in their budgets, then crownes in their purses: notwithstanding of no reputacion: soz they be but procurers of others to baile, & not baylers themselves: And aboue all the rest: the Jan. of the post, do utterly deny to go befeze a J. with F. for feare least the fire in his face should set the J. chamber in a flame: and so they might get moze displeasure, then all the rich rubies in his nose are worth. C. I must needs say is a good fellow: but he vseth his trade nothing so much now as he hath done: and as for K. he doth so tye himselfe to y^e two penny ale, that he can spare no time to do any thing. Then tell me, how fares L. P. C. & Kl-col. are they of no reputacio now: they were wont to be iolly doers in this geare: and so are they still saith Goodcole, for L. and P. doe many matters continually & get much money by it, but it prospers as badly wth them as the coine that Iosephs brethren toke when they sold him into Egypt, for what is gotten all day they spend frankly at night in on tauerne, at house or ether, soe that soz ought that I see, they are as bare as y^e spanish friers that were late taken at sea, which lie now in S. maratins but whereas you speake of C. I haue not sene him a long time either I thinke he is dead, or else gon to Reding againe from whence he came, but why do you call him C. his name is Cookoo, though he keepe not all waies on tune, truly that is moze then euer I heard quoth Freeman, doe they then alter their names when they goe a bout to baile men: as though that you were ignorant therof qd. G. If they shoulde not change their names, & like Protheus turne their shapes sometimes, they woulde often be had by y^e backe for their lewd knauery.

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But then I pray you tell me what is become of the broker, the bird with the blacke foote and goulden taile, and the son of R. doe they continue their oulde courses still? What neede you moue such a question (qd. Goodcoll) how should they liue if they should leaue that swæte profitable trade: bayling and swearing? I tell you sir it is an occupation that foules not their hands, though it corrupt their conscience, which some of them haue bled these dozen or fourtene yerres at the least. I muse (qd. Freeman) how these fellows scape vntaken or unpunisht all this while, for it is an oulde prouerbe, that the pitcher goes so long to the water, that at length it comes broken home. Tush they are as hardesul in this matter as may be, for as I tould you, they will seldome tell their right names, nor giue true notice of their dwelling: And beside that they will be sure to know befoze hand, what Iudge it is that must take the baile: for if their be any iudge that he knowes doth suspect him, he will keepe one leg back from that place, and go befoze some other to doe the feat.

Call you these feates (qd. Freeman) for wretches to periuire themselves in this sort: truly god may well spare them for a time, but their iudgement wil be the greater: and surely goods gotten in this sort must needs be cursed: And no maruell if none of them doe thriue. Why doe you say so (qd. Goodcole) is not the broker rich? I, but he got it by brokery and not by bailing qd. the other. I graunt he is a broker (qd. Freeman) but he was first a bailer and a swearer, which preferd him to his brokery: for it was a small matter instead of hearing morning praier to goe fasting befoze a J. and forswear himselfe, wherby he hath gotten many a crowne, which hee accompteth clære gaines and the stocke remaining whols at the yerres ende: so that now he hath lefte brokery and is become a Draper. A Draper (quoth. Freeman) what Draper, of woollin or linnen? No (qd. he) an Ale Draper, wherein he hath moze skil then in the other: neuer thelesse there are moze brokers that are bailers beside him. Why is their owne trade of brokery so much decayed (quoth. Freeman) that they cannot liue by that, as well as they haue

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done? I (qd Goodcoll) there is so many of them, that one can not live by another: And beside that, there is another inconvenience befallne them: they must now neither buy any thing, nor take pawne, except first they come and Register it in a place provided by the Maiestrats: so that whereas before they were wont to buy much stolne goods, whereby their greatest profit grew: now they cannot doe so, because each party that brings goods to the brokers, must haue their names & dwelling place set downe by the Register, or else they that doe otherwise, are accounted accessory to the felony, if they meddle with any stolne goods.

This is an excellent good order qd. Freeman. But what is that sonne of R. you spoke of? I haue heard much speche of him that he hath bene an notable fellow for bailing. Ad Goodcoll and so he is still: but in speaking of him, I must say to you, as once a King of England said to his Quene. I was desirous to know a certaine matter of him: soft (qd he) thereby hangs a tale: and so likewise of R. remaines another, but that I will referre till to morrow, for what with this good supper, and my weary iourney, I find my selfe well prepared for my bed, and therefore let vs know what we haue to pay, that we may rise from the table, for I assure you my legs are wart as stiffe as an old paire of bootes after a nights drying. Then said Freeman, Ho tapster whats to pay: five shillings two pence (qd he) and you are welcome: with that I began to draw my purse, and Goodcoll went to his pocket: Nay soft my masters (said Freeman) heres not a penny for any of you to pay: nor will I offer a penny (quoth Goodcoll) but these, & with that he set the two loaves which he pluckt out of his pocket on the board: this is an odde iest (quoth I) to set bread on the board after the meate is eaten, much like vnto her, that went not for the Whisition before she saw her husband dead vnder the table If you like not my offer (qd Goodcoll) I will keepe them till to morrow. Why sir qd. Freeman, it is written you should not care for the morrow: tis true qd he, and because I will not care for to morrow,

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row, I prouide these loaves to night. Then said I to Freeman, I beseech you sir accept of my money, otherwise you will charge your selfe too much: You shall not spend a farthing (quoth he) no: should not if we were together this month: And trust me my hearts, were it not for one thing I would walke along with you: but at Bristowe I did disburse an hundred angels, to the good man of the Fryngpan on the Bridge, to haue it paide me at London, the fiftenth of 3: nexte, or within seuen daies after the sight of his bill: But (said Goodcoll) who must paie it to you there? Mary Phillipp Curtoise, a man sure enough quoth Freeman.

I would to Christ said Goodcoll, we might haue had your company to Plimmoth, for I may say to you as to my friend, I haue not one penny in my purse, whatsoeuer come: quoth Freeman, thou shalt not lacke for money: And with that he ope his purse and gaue him ten shillings, saying: Would thee my ould friend, take this to helpe thee, and if I had more store of white money, I promise thee thou shouldest haue more, mary I thanke God I haue some charge about me, more then I meane to make any man priuy to: And to say the truth, I am loath to breake my gould, I haue left my selfe five shillings yet in silver, and that shall serue till I come to London: And with that he calde the good man of y^e house, saying: God my hoast prouide me a good bed, and a chamber with locke and key, for I haue charge about me.

Sir saith the hoast feare not, you shall lie safe I warrant you, if you had a thousand pound. Heare ye my hoast (quoth Freeman) I pray you vse my friends well, I may say to you they are honest men, and of good credit in London, though as you see they trudge thus a foote, as my selfe doth. I tel you they haue reason for it my hoast, and so haue I too: eharke ye me, I pray you let them haue what they will call for, if they will not pay you, I will. I thanke you sir (quoth we) and so we departed to bed.

In the morning they rose early, and calling at Freemans chamber doore, thought to take their farewell of him: What

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my boies (quoth he) are you such good cockes to be rising as soone as the sunne: Nay soft, we must not part so, I meane to bryake my fast with you, with that he started out of his bed, and wiled the tapster to couer the board, so to breakfast we went. Then said Freeman: now Goodcoll I pray you let me heare the tale of Rob: for I could doe nothing but dreame all night what it should be: Nay (quoth he) this is being his crafts. Daster, where he was hired to come before any Iudge to baile a man, it was his accustomed vse to call himselfe by a wong name: and if he dwelt in long lane perhaps he would say he dwelt in white Chappell, and so neither certifie them of his true name, nor of his true dwelling place: so that if any enquierie bee made of him in such place, where he affirmed himselfe to dwell, there is no such man to be found: and by this means he scapes manie a scowring.

But pardon me I beseech you, good master Freeman, the day weares, and I haue farre to go, therefore I cannot stand to tell out the rest: but at our next meeting in troth you shall knowe all: therfore let vs paye our spotte and be walking.

A sigge (quoth Freeman) here is nothing to pay, and were our reckoning twentie pound, you should not pay one penny: but because your hast is such towards your iourney, and my desire great to heare out your tale, Ile take my sword and walke a mile or two with you: And thus hauing discharged the house we went forth together. Well now to my tale quoth Goodcoll.

I heard it tolde for a truth, that a certaine Gl. now dwelling on Saint Andrews Hill, in the direct way toward Tyborne, being a good knight of the Post, and hauing learned of Ro. and such other of that hatefull society, to deny their own names: vpon a tims when he came before a iudge to baile a man: most knauishly named himselfe to be a certaine Upholster in London: a man that for his wealth and wisdom was of good account among his neighbours.

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The creditoꝝ making inquiry of his baile, and finding him by report to be very sufficient, was well content, so the matter rested till the terme: At what time the action being calde vpon, there came neither one noꝝ other to make answer.

At last by course of law an execution was like to be serued vpon the surety. The honest Cittizen hearing of this matter, was not a little amazed: saith he to the Creditoꝝ, Sir you greatly mistake, I am not the man you meane, soꝝ I know no such man you speake off, noꝝ was I euer baile in this court in my life. Why is not your name thus: qd, the Attourney your trade Upholstery, and dwell you not in such a place? Yes indeede quoth the Cittizen: well then, except there be moze of this name dwelling there, you are like to answer vs (saide the Attourney. Tush said the Cittizen, as well he might haue put in my childes name as mine, soꝝ any knowledge I had of this matter.

Thus was this honest man put to no small trouble before he could cleare himseife: while in the meane space the Glouer sat smiling in his sleeue, and caried away twenty oꝝ thirthy shillings soꝝ his paines.

Undoubtedly said I, he is a fellow of a filthy conscience: Conscience (qd Goodcoll:) I tell you their consciences are like chiuereell skins, that will stretch euery way. But soꝝ all the Glouer is so cunning, if he vse many of these seates, at length he will come to peepe through the pilloꝝ, and carry as many eares on his head as old Harry of W. gardine. But where is W. now a daies, that goulden feathered bird, he hath bene an ancient professor of bayling, & many great aduentures hath he past, like a most hardy knight of the Post.

I saith Freeman, but he was like to haue catcht a foule foile of late: soꝝ if he had bene gotten, he had bene clapt vp in the Kings bench soꝝ his knauery: And how scapt he I pray: Euen by his wittes said Goodcoll, the which he hath beaten thrid bare.

Also

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Also you know **P. Alias. A.** onlde **A.** not the for, thoughh much of his nature, **B. and H.** : yes mary, what of them, doe they procede still in bayling, some doe , and some doe not, for as I heard, good **P. Alias A.** ryding out of **Towne**, broke his necke at **Eyborne**. And as he went to hanging, **A.** stood by and would not bid him once farewell, wherebp-
pon **P.** broke out into this passion, saying: Ah thou ingrate-
full wretch , haste thou beene copartner of so many of my
profites, and dost thou now participat with my crosses, thou
haste sung with me, and dancst with me, eate and drunke
with me, and canst thou not finde in thy heart to hang with
me. Well, if thou hadst not that good nature in thee, yet
thou mighst haue toke the paines as to goe to the Gallows
with me, or bid me farewell.

An Officer ryding hard by him with a **Jaueline** in his
hand, hearing him thus inuaye against his unkinde friend,
wisht him to content himselfe with patience, for (quoth he)
though he will not take the paines to goe with thee now, yet
he meanes parhaps to follow thee shortly.

It was well answerd to the discontented man (qd. Free-
man) for the quyet of his minde, but how fares **B. C. and
H.** mary sometimes with bread and cheese (quoth Goodcoll,
sometimes with bread and butter , and eate rostmeat when
they haue mony: Nay I inquire not after their chier , but
their good estate (saith Freeman.) In troth they liue so so, and
it were well , if they knew where a good commodetie of
names were to be sould , and yet I thinke all the mony in
their purses could not buy it.

But to let these bace fellows passe, I can tell you of a
great many others that you neuer knewe men lately come
into the trade, but I doubt we haue brought you too farre out
of your way already: Tut, I respect it not (quoth Free.) and
seeing I am come thus farre, I will walke along to Ando-
uer with you, because in trueth I would heare somewhat of
those men you speake of, for hang it bp, it is but the coming
backe of fiftene or sixtene myles, & there I will bestowe
your

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your dinner on you, and so returne, why then we shall be too much beholding to your curtesie (qd. Goodcoll) but seeing you haue so good a minde to heare of these matters, I will proceede in my first purpose.

There is a most braue fellow but very newly crept into this crewe, and his name is N. well knowne, one that lookes very high, and at euery word casteth his eye aboue Powles steeple, as if he would quarrell with the Prouince, or had some controuersie against the seauen starres. In his attire, he is neat and fine, and in his speech stately, with a long piccadzuant after the french cut, and of a scornefull countenance, and when he comes into Westminster hall, he bends his browes, as if he would beare downe the Kinges Bench barre with his lookes. My acquaintance with the man is but small, for I was neuer in his company but once, and that was at the KINGS head in Fleetstreete, at what time being (as it was supposed) in his holle day apparell, which was after the manner of a Marchaunt, he seemed to scoone that a worse man should speake to him.

Also at the same time as I wel remember P. the golden feathered bird was with him, very braue, with a faire cloake of some what a gray colour on his backe, the which (as it was tolde me) N. had lent him for that day, hauing bin as it seemed about their common profite that morning: and these two as I haue heard, haue ioynd theselues together in many actions. There is also another new come fellow, whose name is S. he dwelt sometime about London bridge, & now is gotten into Houndsditch to dwell, who seeming to be a very surly proud companion, & falling at strife with his trade, gaue his occupation a passport, to get a new master, and betooke himselfe to follow this honest fellowship, and doth also take vpon him to doe many matters, making both of his abilitytie and of the effecting of many matters huge bragges, howsoeuer he deales in the performance thereof. Nowe fir,

there is another of this newcome crewe, that by reporte is
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as worthy to be noted as the rest, whose name and nature may well agree.

He is called W. and you knowe beastes of his name are great bloudsuckers, and it is to be feared, he will be as great a purse-sucker, as the wolfe is a bloud-sucker, if in time he be not prevented.

And it came to passe that this W. not long since, & S. & N. being before swozne brethren, and great companions together, on a time they with some other of the same sect, after their businesse at the hall in the morning was ended, finding their guts chyme twelue a clocke in their bellies, went all together to dinner in Westminster: where they fedde so heartily, and druncke so hard, that S. after dinner (while the others were busie in talking) fell asleepe, which when the rest perceiued, like most honest men of their profession, consulted among themselves, to steale away, and leaue him to pay the shot, whereupon one of them after another crept out of the roome, and came to the good man, saying, Sir we haue gathered our reckoning, and leste our monecy with our friend aboue, who because he was vp this morning somewhat early, breaking his ordinarie houre, is purposed to take a nappe before he goe; and as soone as he wakes he will pay you: for our owne partes we haue earnest busines that calleth vs hence, or else we woulde be loath to leaue him behind vs, and therefore we pray you take care of him, that no man doe offer him any wrong.

The good man deeming their abillitie to be answerable to their apparell, and noting them by their countenance to be ciuill Cittizens, with his cappe in his hande very mannerly, made this replie.

Very well Gentlemen, I doubt not my payment, and doubt you not but I will haue good regard to the gentleman aboue: let him take his rest on Gods blessing: well, God be with you, sir qd. they: you are heartily welcome saide the Wintner: now sir within some quarter of an houre after, S. awaking out of sleepe, and seeing his companions to bee gone, marueiled much thereat, wherefore he calling the

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Drauer, presently answered with a shrill voyce, anon. anon sir, when the Drauer came to him, he demaunded if all his companie were gone out of the house, yes marry sir, said he, a quarter of an houre agoe, and moze, what churles were they (quoth he) to goe and leaue me here, but seeing it is so, take vp thy plate good Drauer, and with that he stept out of the roome, nay soft sir (quoth the Drauer) I hope you will pay the reconing ere you parte, haue not they payd (quoth S. not ane penny, sir said the Drauer, then said S. with a pale countenance, why tell me what is to pay, vnder ten shillings somewhat sir answered the Drauer, with that S. bent his browes and fetcht his stations vp and downe the roome, with such furious Iesture as if he had bene playing Hamberlane on a stage: Drauer (quoth he) thou must not thinke to make a younger brother of me, I knowe my friendes wou'd not serue me thus for twenty pound, I pray thee goe call thy maister, the fellow runnes downe and tells his maister how the case stood, the godman incontinent goes to S. who asketh him presently if he were not payd the shot: no verely. said the godman, your friendes tolde me at their parting. that they had gathered the reconing and giuen you the mony to pay: and haue they serued me so (quoth S.) wel, heere is your mony, but I will take heede how I sleepe after dinner againe: A small matter sir (quoth the godman for one friend to iest with another. And so they departed, but this bred no litle bzaile betwixt S. and H. when they met. Certainly I could not blame S. to be offended (quoth Freeman) to be so vnconscionably vsed by his companions, in a strange place, but no doubt they payd him againe, that is hard to say (qd, G. for some of them deale in paying their debtes. like the Plannet Saturne, that finishes his course but once in 3. yeeres, and they possible once in thre liues.

Nowe sir there is thre or 4. more, that are newly come in, whose names I haue heard, but I know not the men, the one of them is called by the name of the higheft weapen that is caried too, another of them after a word of the third H. but the

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the fourth mans name I cannot remember, and alasſe, they are no persons of any great reconing, but ſuch as ſhift it out with others, who like Robin Hyppers ſpaniell, runnes away when they are calde, if they ſpie but one of the Marſhales men in ſight. Twentie moze of ſuch fellows could I name, if that leaſure would ſerue me. and as I haue rehearſt their names, ſo could I ſhewe you manie of their actions, what wylie and cunning pranks they play, which would make you wonder to heare it, and me wearie to tell it, but now I perceiue we are come to Andouer, & therefore leauing theſe matters, we will beſthinke vs where we may prouide for our dinners, ſir I ſhall tell you quicklie (quoth I:) the ſigne of the Wy is a verie good houſe for ſotemen, or at the ſigne of the three Harryners, at anye of thoſe two houſes we ſhall be verie well bleſed, whers we may haue any thing that wee will call for, and verie reſonable: At the ſigne of the Wy then let it be (quoth Free.) and there my maiſters we will be merrie, where I will ſpend an Engliſh Crowne vpon you, and although I am loath, yet then I will leaue you Maſter Free. I thanke you (quoth Good.) and if it pleaſe God I liue, I will requite this kindenes, and with y we toke in the houſe ouer our heades, and ſo calling for meat, to dinner we went, where when we had wel victualled our ſelues, M. Free. would needes haue a pottle of wine ſent for, & to make it reliſh the better, the godman of the houſe being a notable good companion, gaue vs a peece of ſuger, and ſo ſat dowlne wth vs, and by that time we had drunke our wine, beeing well whittled with ſtrong Ale befoze, of the goodwiues owne brewing, we began all of vs to be verie pleaſant, & my Hoſt of Andouer ſeeing vs grow in a good humour, aſkt vs how far we would goe that night, marie by the helpe of God to Wallſherie (ſaid I) & we are ſorry that this our friend muſt leaue vs here. Nay (quoth Free.) I will heare the tale out firſt, for all the beſt is behinde, in trueth that cannot bee (qd. G.) for the circomſtance is too long to be tolde in a ſhort time, & as god neuer a whit begunne as not ended: for if it pleaſe

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God at Salisburie we will lie this night. That is a place I was neuer in quoth Freeman. With that the port man of the house began to commend the holisome & pleasant situation of that Cittie: shewing also that out of the head of one spring the water ran through every strate in the same cittie, and I wil tell you what Gentlemen (qd. he) you say y you were neuer there: but if you please to goe thither, there you shall see the fairest Cathedral Church (for the bignes) that is in Englande, the first stone wherof, King Iohn w his owne hand did lay, and there is about the same church as many chappels as there is moneths in the yere, as many doores as there are weekes in y yere, and as many windowes as there are days, and as many pillers as there are howers in the yere, I haue bene in many cuntreys quoth Freeman but of such a church did I neuer heere, well it is true qd. our host, and it is but fiftene miles hence, and therefore seeing you neuer sawe it, if I were as you, I would see it, wel Goodcoll quoth Freeman, were it but to heare out thy tale, I will goe to Salisburie, for if the worst come to the worst, it is but the hiring of a hackney to ryde to lodon and to come time I knowe to the receiuing of my moneye, well my masters qd. he, there is according to my promise, a crown towards the shot, & if it come to more, you shall pay it betwen you for me, well sir quoth I, howsoeuer it goes, you come still to your cosse: and so our shot being payd, we set towards Salisburie, bidding our good host farwell: now frind Goodcoll you maye thinke that I loue tales well, that go so many miles out of my waye to here one, but it is no mater, my mind to me is a monerkey, therefore nowe seeing wee are onward e of our waie, let vs begile the time with talke, and driue out weariness with the residue of the discourse, nowe quoth Goodcoll, you shall here me discouer y wilde practices of these bad people, wherby they daylie abuse the graue Judges of the land, her maiesties high commissioners, and the Iustices of the peace, especially these for Lord. Bish. B. and Sur. with y shires next adoyning, Stewardest of Courtes, and many other,

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other, both honorable & worshipful: deceiuing likewise many poore men, by their most vilde & lewde practises: for now they (as some of them can brag of) haue by y^e continuall practise thereof, made their trade of baileing, better by five C. perides a yere, then heretofore it hath bene. Whereupon Freem. demanded how that coulde be: I will tell you sir qd. Godcole: They are growen now as I say, to baile men before her M. high Commissioners for causes Ecclesiasticall: But if their vilaxie be once found out in y^e place, they will be made to curse the day of their Natiuitie: that euer they first began to take these lewd courses in hand. It cometh then (qd. Freem.) that they haue prettye fine wits, that they can escape away so cleanly in their matters, & neuer be taken tardie: Albeit (qd. he) that their long practise in these thinges, haue made them as subtile as Serpents: yet now and then they are taken in their villanie, but that is verie seildome: perhaps once in seauen yeres.

And now sir, I will shew you how that not long since, a man that you know verie well, was clapt by the heeles in y^e Clink, for baileing (as I suppose) a Papist before the high Commissioners: who as soone as he had gotten his libertie, got himselfe away, & (as I haue heard) could not be scounde as yet. What do they presume so audaciously to baile papists too quoth Freemanyes verily: They wil not sticke to iter eyther Bond or baile for any man y^e will giue them money.

And what will not they do: if they may be well requited for their paines: But say they, there we shall neuer be put to our othes which is a good helpe vnto vs. And thus haue they all the shifts & deuises that may be deuised to help themselves: But now they are growen moze circumspect in their dealinges, then they were wonte to be. In what sort qd. Fr: They haue now taken this order amongst them, that they will be sure to come before one J. but once in a terme, because they will not be noted in y^e Maiesties eies, so that the graue Maiesties are not any way able to preuent it, by reason of the multitudes of people y^e come before them: so that when any kn. of y^e post coms before any Ma. againe,
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he hath as cleane forgot his countenance, as the man he neuer sawe before: if it be so, quoth Freeman, that they come before a J. but once in a terme, their gettings must needs be small, and I maruell how they can live of it, whercunto Goodcole answered, that as they live badde enough, so they live poore enough, fortune feeding the, as Mosie did his mare, through a hurdle, which made him take her so sone napping. And through wante of meate many times they walke out their dinner in Duke Humfrey his Allie, or else fetch a sleepe vnder a pillar in Dowles, onely to beguile hunger. And although they make many other shiftes to get money by, yet none of them dies rich men. And now I will shew you how by a newe deuise which they haue gotten, they get many a crowne. I pray you let me heare that (qd. Freeman) for nouelties breeds most delight. It is so, qd. Goodcole as you know, that Newgate being a prison for all kind of fellows, and other mallefactours, it is comonly replenished with more store, then any other prison in England, by reason of the populacie and great number of lewde persons, that lurke about the citie of London: which these good knights looking into, and smelling out what great profite might be gotten by them, sought meanes to come acquainted with certaine cutpursses and other pilfering companions, such indeede, as can not forbear once in a quarter at the least, to weare a paire of Shackles in Newgate: and see their good fortune, it was their chaunce to be in company vpon a time, where one of cutpursses hall made great mone for a friende of his that was clapt vp vpon suspicion, a proper youth qd. hee and of good parentage, & falling in badde company, was apprehended with the rest as a partner of their practises: and yet I may say to you, the youth is well knowne to diuers worthie Captaines, for a proper fellow, and an excellent Drummer, and such an one as hath serued her Maiestie both in France and Flanders, yet to see his hard destinie, he is now become after all his credite gotten in the felde, to suffer shame in his owne Countrie: and I promise you I feare he will
hardly

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hardly escape death. Alas poore fellow, qd. the knight of the poste, hath he no friendes in the Citie that will doe somewhat for him, and bayle him forth till the Sessions come : he hath many friendes qd. the other, but he is ashamed to make the matter knowne to them, fearing it shoulde come to his parentes eares : which he would not for an hundred pounds, What qd. the k. hath he any thing to helpe himselfe withal? In troth qd. the other, he hath small store of money, but he hath good thinges to make money of. Why what would he giue qd. they, to such as would procure his libertie and set him out of danger, mary qd. the other he would giue foure Angels withal his heart, in troth qd. they for sixe Angels, we will for your sake finde meanes to fetch him forth: and put in good sufficient men to be sureties for his apparace at the next assises, but wee will haue our money readie to bee paid : but wil not receiue one penny before we haue done it, you speak like honest men qd. the other : I will thus much presume, though without my friendes knowledge, that you shall haue sixe Angels or thre poundes in white money, so soone as it is done : therefore I wou'd wish you goe about it straight : and because I know, you cannot trot about without expences, there is for a pottle of wine, and with that he throlweth them downe a shilling : desiring them to tell him where hee should meete them at euening or in the morning : the place being appointed, & themselues with all circumstances prepared, dressing themselues very handsomly, to a J. they go, if he chaunce not to be within, then they trudge to another, and doe not rest till they speake with one or other. And thus with a very graue looke, and duetifull obedience they begin to speake in this sort. We are come to intreat your good Fellowship for a poore young man that is in prison, one that is come of very honest parents though he be farre from them, who by mere chaunce, lighting in company of some lewde persons, was with them committed to Newgate, where the poore young man, hauing bene tenderly brought bp. through the weakenesse of his owne nature, and the noysome smell

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of the place where he now is, finde th himselfe verie ill, & we assure your W^{or}ship, that we feare if he remaine there any longer, that it will be his death, wherefore we most humbly intreat your W^{or}ship, that he may be bayled forth, you shall haue sufficient Citizens and good Subsidie men to bee bound for his apparance at the next s^{es}sions, to answer what soener can be laid against him. The good Justice noting their speech, and therewithall their persons, makes this answer, if his fact be no worse then you speake of, and you seme honest men that would not report an vntrueth, I am contented to take baile, so you bring me good sufficient sureties: & if it shall please your good W^{or}ship (quoth they) we will be the men our selues, I assure you sir, we are subsidie men both of vs, and our dwelling is in such a place, & with that they protest that they were s^{es}sed at five poundes in Quenes booke, the last subsidie, whereupon the Justice bids his Clarke to take their bondes: And by the meanes of the notable Cutpurse coming out of Newgate, the money is straight paid, and then to the Tauerne they goe as pleasant as Doppingales, where they drinke and carous merrilie, giuing them much thanks for this their great courtesie and euer after, when they or any other of their society, doe chance to meete with these old shauers, they care not what they spend vpon them, spreading their fame amonge all their familiars, whereby it is come to passe, that they are as well knowne among these companions, as those little boyes are with the bathes. who will cast themselves downe a great heigh, naked into the water and fetch a penny in the bottoome. So that now there is great familiaritie growne betwixt them, that if any Cutpurse be clapt vp, for vsing his knife and his hozne, they straight send worde to these their assured friends, who whether they haue money or no, will procure their deliuerie being contented that the next tyme the Cutpurse nippes, shall serue for his recompence. For these honest men doe consider that their staying in prison is no profite to them, but by their libertie, they

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they are assured that they will get money enough both to defraye charges and to recompence them for their paines. Why then quoth Freeman it seemes by your speeches, y^e the knights of the post and the cutpursses w^{ch} al such other leawd companions are confederated together for I perceiue the cutpurss is so kinde, that if he haue it, the knights shall not want it: no I assure you (qd. G.) for both those Sects are growne into one leage of friendship, hauing sworne as need requircth, one good fellowe to helpe another, and in his aduersitie, no more to forsake him, then in his prosperitie: doe all the knights of the post vse this practice (qd. Free.?) G. answered, no not all, but some of them, especially those of the midling or latest sorte, what is there such diuersitie of them, yea too many (said G.) who goe about as fishwives carrie Dyssers, new and stale: But I pray you tell mee (qd. F.) what shift doe they make, when these persons for whom they are bound doe not appiere, at the next Sessions or Gaile deliuerie? You shall vnderstand (qd. G. that the K. do know and are verelie perswaded, as a thing wherin they are well experienced, that there is no doubt of that matter, for those fellowes falling to their oulde trade againe (because they are so grownded in filching, cannot otherwise betake themselves to any vertuous labour it is vnpossible, but they will be apprehended, for one vilde fact or other, before the Sessions, so that he will be forth comming sure ynough, whereby their bondes are saued. And it is to be noted that so long as they stand bound for any of them, they wil not baile them out againe, but suffer the law either to set them at libertie, or sende them to the gallows, for they are as careful in this case, as y^e hangman is, to tye the halter fast, so that there can come no danger to them in the world. Then I perceiue (qd. F.) y^e if a man, or a woman, comit neuer so hainous offence, except in cases of treason, murder, & such like, he may be bayled out of prison at any time if he haue acquaintance with any of these fellowes, and haue stowe of moneye to helpe himselfe withall, yea verelie (said Good.) & they doe not onely baile

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men out of Newgate, but out of the Marshalsea, the White Lyon, the Gatehouse at Westminster, Finsberie, Wentworth prison, and out of the counter in Southwark for debt. Some they doe (said G.) but not many, for in these Courtes they dare not aduenture in cases of debt, so bouldie as in the higher courtes, because the courses of law there, comes a great deale sooner for trialls, then in the rest. whereby an execution comes vpon their backs, befoze they looke for it.

Then I perceiue (quoth F.) for all their haste they are ouer, taken sometimes. Why you must thinke, it is vnpossible (said G. they doing so many matters continually) but that they should be taken and clapt by the hakes for some of them. Now I pray you G. tell me where doe all these knightes of the post dwell and inhabit, are they all Londoners: no not the tenth man (qd. G.) for some of them dwell at Redding, some at Ware, some at Colebrooke, some at Staines, some at S. Albones, some at Hartford, some further of, and some nearer hand: Then (said F.) it is great maruill that they are not refused when they come befoze the Maiestrate. seeing their dwellings are so farre of, why I tould you (quoth G.) that they neuer giue true notice either of their names or dwelling place, and that they will knowe befoze hand, befoze what Iudge they must goe, and also what danger there is in the cause, befoze such time, as they will enter into the matter, being as fearefull to be taken tardie, as the whelp is to lapp hote porage.

But is it possible (quoth F.) that these men, that are so redy to forswear themselves, wil be trustie in their dealings to them that pnt them in trust: nay (quoth G.) I may tell you, some of them vse these shiftes, when they haue little other buisenes to goe from prison to prison, and promise poore men to worke wonders for them, but they will not stir their foote without some mony in hand, and when they haue once fingerd it, they neither doe the parties good, nor peraduenture neuer come to him againe, whereby he loses three thinges at one time, his good hope, his mony, and his name. This was
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he sooner spoken, but a foot-poste of Plimmouth ouertooke the,
cladde in a flannell waistcoat, and a linnen paire of breeches,
with a Spaniardes hat on his head, that sate vpon his pate
like the bottome of a pipkin. God speede my masters qd. he:
how farre trauell you to night: euen to Salisbury said they.
Trust me said the foot-poste, I guest as much by your softe
going, and there likewise will I take vp my lodging. Came
you from London qd. they: Yes marry said the Poste, I broke
my faste there yesterday morning. What is the best newes
there? Very good newes said the Poste: Carriage is become
so cheape, that a man may ride for nothing. That indeed is
good newes quoth Goodcoll for wearied men, is it not? Yes
marry said Freeman, for such as dwel there, but it profiteth vs
nothing. It may in good time quoth the Poste: Why? what
dost thou meane by that saith Goodcoll? That may be an-
swered sone at supper, answered the other, if you like to lodg
at my hosts house: where is that quoth they? In Salisbury
at the signe of the Griffin saith he: where you shall bee well
bled for your money: & it is the first Anne that we shall come
to in the Citie. Goodcoll answered: We desire but good vs-
lage for our money and good lodging. Then meane not I to
suppe with you quoth the poste: No: why so saide they: be-
cause you request but good vsage for our money and good lod-
ging: but I must haue meate for my stomacke. There you
were euen with me indeed saith Freeman: the poste replied:
not so: for I am lower then you by the head: then you reckon
not the height of your hoznes quoth Goodcoll. The poste
seeing himselfe matcht: turnd his spech to other purpose and
so they poste on their way to Salisbury: and to the signe of the
Griffin they goe: where the foot-poste as one best acquain-
ted: entered in first and called the good man of the house: wi-
shing they might haue somewhat to supper. Loke what they
cald for they had: and the goodman sate downe with them for
company and bad them all heartily welcome: so with many
pleasant speeches they past their supper time. At length qd.
the goodman: What newes (Gentlemen) at London.

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Certainely said Freeman for our owne partes we knowe none: but I remember this light-footed ladde tolde vs by the way that he would shewe vs some: and referred the whole storie till the time of our supper: which now being ended he may procede to the matter when he pleaseth.

I haue nothing to say but this quoth the poste: that in London beefe is indifferent good cheape but mutton is deare: for the market is soze stald greatly by the two takers of London who fetch all the fairest muttons out of common pastures and pennes them by to other purposes: by the masse thou art a knave qd. the goodman: And my host saith the other, there is such a lamentation made in Venus court, as the like hath not bene heard of long time: pretty wenches goe so fast to Bridewell as it passeth: some in their tassaty golwnes: some in their wast-coates all euerywought with blacke worke. And poore soules they waape not so soze, but the bea- dles of Bridewell laughe as fast: for now their gaines cometh in out of all crie. Tush qd. Goodcoll they haue gone a great while on the scoze and now possible they are cald to a reckoning: and great reason they shoulde make painment: May by the masse they are paid qd. the poste: I woulde not be so paid for an hundred pound But you tolde vs of another matter said Freeman as we came ouer the playne: and tis as plaine a matter as the playne of Salisburie saide the poste. Then said his host: What was it? Harry qd. he one there was of so kinde a nature, that hee woulde suffer any good fellow to lie with his wife that lackt a wife: In requitall whereof my Lord Maior of L. lent him a Cart to ride in for nothing: and because the Cuckold was rich: no hoznes woulde serue his turne but golden hoznes: and bearing himselfe some what bragge of my Lords preferment: the proud soule got on his hollyday cappe vpon a working day: whereby euery boy perceiued his asses eares: and in this sort he rode vp and downe the Citie till the people dzoue him away by singing of dyrt at him.

And as he went one way I came another with pur-
pose

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pose to bring you certaine newes of this matter, for such goulden hoines as he wore, did I neuer see in my life. And now my host, tell vs what we haue to pay, then said Freeman to G. do you lay downe mony for me, and I will giue it you againe, I loue not to shewe my gould in an In, for Tapsters and Officers (they say) are not alwayes the honestest men. But come my host (saith Fr.) I was neuer in this Cittie before, and I would desire you, to take the paines to goe with these my friends, & my selfe, to viewe the strætes, & to see the minster, for I haue heard great commendation of it, sir (quoth the godman) I am content to walke with you, and to shewe you the minster, or to doe you any other saueur, that I may: so when Free, and his two friendes, with their host, had taken their pleasure in walking vp and downe the Cittie, he would needs to requite his hostes courtesie, giue him a quart of wine at the Grayhounde, which beeing as willingly accepted, as it was kindelie offerd, into the Tauerne they went, where they made their quart a pottle: Now the fote-post vnderstanding where they were, thought he would goe to catch a cup of wine among them, and comming merely in, even as they were paying the shot, as if they lackt companie, no but we lacke wine (quoth F.) the worse lucke for me, said the post, I would I had bene more forward in comming hither, or you lesse hastie in drinking the wine, wilt thou not giue vs a pint, saith his host, yes marrie will I, answered the other, and with that he calles the Drawer, saying: bring vs hither a pint: what shall it be sir, faire water (qd. the post) with that they all laught, saying: he would be at cost well answered Freeman I will giue this mery fellowe a quarte of wine of wine, for his good companie to day, I thanke you, sir saith the fote poste, and with that sat downe among them, where what with one merrie Jest or another, wine was called for in lustelie, At what time in the midst of their Cuppes, F. Freeman wore bee
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would goe to Plimmouth with them foote by foote, so when the reckoning came to be paid, he requested Goodcoll again, according to his accustomed order, to lay downe money for him: by the masse qd. Goodcoll, what with our supper and this shotte, I haue but one groat left of my tenne shillings, for it is no reason my hoast should pay any thing at all, or this my friend either, and as for the foot-poste, you promised him to giue him a quart of wine: That is very true quoth Freeman, pay all Goodcoll at this time, and in faith for that odde groat which remaines, we will haue a freshe pinte of sacke. Now when that was druncke, they went all to their lodging.

In the morning the foot-post was soonest vp: who calling to the rest of his company: askt if they were almost ready to walke: but Free nan had drunke so hard ouer night that he had no list to rise so timely in the morning: & as for Goodcoll his money was all gone and spent: therefore he would not goe before his good friend Freeman: for my owne part I would faine haue gone along with the foot-poste: but that Goodcoll did earnestly intreat me to the contrary: whereupon I stayd: & at length Freeman rising he called straight for something to bzeakefast which was sone prepared (for he was still the Gentleman) so hauing something refreshd our selues we rose from the boord: pay Goodcoll qd. Freeman lay out for me: I can lay out no more quoth Goodcoll but all: then Freeman willed me to lay downe for them both, which I did: and so taking our leaue of our hoast, we set forward on our iourney toward Shaftesbury.

Whereupon trauailing by the way, we fell into our olde accustomed talke: and amongst many other things: Goodcoll there told vs that the kn. of the poste were marueilous good companions when they had store of money: and howe commonly they would be sure alwayes to haue money before hand of him that should vse the though they did nothing.

Then said Freeman to Goodcoll I had forgot to aske you one question yesterday: & indeede the foot-post did bzeake off
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our talke, or else I had done it.

I pray you tell me, where are any of these kn. of the post at any time to be founde; if y^e a man shoulde happen to haue neede of them? Truly, I assure you (quoth Goodcole) if it be in the tearme time, you may haue them most commonly in Fleetstræte, about S. In, or else about Ch. lane: or else in some of the pudding-pie houses at Westminster, or else at the thre legges there, and at one of these places (I say) you shall be sure neuer to misse of some of them themselues, or else of some of their parte-takers that are the procurers of them. But if it be out of tearme time: you shall haue them commonly, once or twice a day, walking in D. Humfreys Alley in Poinles, or at the Lion on the backe-side of S. Pi: rhollas Shambles, or at the Rose in Pannier alley, or at y^e Dolphin in the end of Carter lane: and sometimes at the Will-sacke in the same lane: and there lye crushing of y^e tye-penny Ale-pot halfe a day together: but if you do misse (as doubtles you cannot) to finde any of the in some of those places: yet there is a Bell (but in what place it may hang I know not) that if it be toulled, or at least-wise Rong out, it will with the sounde thereof, cause an hundred of them to meete together, wⁱⁿ thre houres, to serue any mans turne that hath neede. And I dare warrant you y^e Mephastophilus neuer haunted D. Faustus more, then these fellows doe those places: where they consume their time, & spend away all their thriste. But what doe they take ordinarilie qd. fr. for baileing of a man? All after as y^e matter is (qd. Goodc.) sometimes more, and sometimes lesse, as they can make their bargaine.

But as I haue heard (quoth fr.) that there are another sort of kn. of the poste, that will beare false witnes in any mans behalfe that will hire them, such as came to sweare against Christ, whose Glozie is their shame: And albeit some of them do make a shew of Christianitie: yet are they void of all feare of God, and of no religion at all: but let vs saide G. leaue of speaking any surder of them at this time: and at my coming backe from Sea I will make a great num-

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ber of them be manifestly knowne to the world. With that
I that all this while lent earnest care to their talke, caste
forth my verbiage thus: it seemeth (qd I) M Godco. that
you & M. fr. haue bine much conuersant w these fellows
because you know their names so well, & can open all these
matters so perfectly: I was conuersant with them so long
saide God. that it grudged my conscience sore to see their
dealinges: and grieved my heart to be any longer in their
company: so did it mine saide fr. and with that, there was
other sesteimen that ouertooke vs, which caused vs to breake
of our talke, but Godrole bowed deeply, y if euer it were his
god fortune to come from the sea againe: not only to double
what he hath spoken, but also to be a scourge for euer to all
such disceitfull persons: and so keeping company with the
rest y ouertooke vs, we droue out our time till we came to
Shaltsburie, where M. fræiman caused me to lay out money
againe for them both, saying he woulde change two or thre
peecees of golde at Exceter & pay me all againe: but when we
came there, & that I had laide out all my money at his re-
quest: not one penny or peece of gold, had he in the worlde:
but was faine to sell his cloake for very neede: wherevppon
I was a little moued, to see my selfe thus serud in a strange
place, & asked him if he were not ashamed to come so far to
heare a tale, & to spend all his money too: and Godc. on y o-
ther side, was as blanke as my selfe: in troth M. fr. qd he,
you had neede now to go & receiue your money at Londõ, if
there be any for you, is your great store of gold come to this
reckning: no maruell but you should haue your chāber doze
lockt for feare of robbing. My masters qd. he, I haue decei-
ued you as you suppose, but none is deceiued so much as my
selfe: and if w patience you will heare me, I will shew you:
At the same time y I landed at Brist. there was one w me,
that came out of Ireland also: a man y seemed to be of good
credite, who had an Irish boy to waite vpon him, & hauing
bine as he said long out of England, bent his iourney to vi-
sit his friends in Lancashire: we comming ouer both in one
ship, made accout also to lie in one lodging: & he hauing as
well

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well as my selfe good store of money, bought him selfe a new
suite of Apparell at Bristol. the which in my eye seeming faire
& good, I woulde needs straightway buye me y^e like, which
when I had done, & to haue the residue of my gold surc, fear-
ring eyther to be robbed, or deceiued thereof, ript y^e lining of
my doublet in diuers places, & therein basted my gold most
secretly, now y^e gentlman & I, lying together that night, the
next morning he rose before me, and as it seemed, he put on
my doublet & left me his: which I thinke on my conscience
he did it simplie & unknowne to him selfe, because he made
himselfe ready in my sight, and at his departure away, he
brought me vp into my chamber a pinte of metheglin, and
drinkeing to me he bad me farewell: now I supposing all
this while y^e I had my own doublet on, made indede no co-
ther reckning: had therein great store of golde, but when y^e
this morning I searched & found it not so, you may thinke
that I was not a litle grieved: therefore my masters here
is the one halfe of that I had so; my cloake, to bring you to
Plimmouth, & with the rest, I will travell into Lancashire
to my gentleman, for my own doublet, and therefore till I
see you againe, adieu, and thinke hereafter no worse of me
then you haue founde, and so we parted: he towarde Lan-
cashire, and we towarde Plimmouth. Thus much (gentle
reader) haue you heard of the cunning shifts & wicked de-
uises of those lewde and euil-minded persons: Wishing all

honest men to beware of them: and at Woodcoles re-

turne from Sea, you shall be sure to see a second

parte hereof, and if any of them do spurne

hereat: let him be well assured y^e the

next will touch him to y^e quicke,

and in the meane space I doe

with this to be published

to y^e view of y^e worlde,

and soe farewell.

FINIS.